



January 27th

On this day in...

2008: Heavy rain hit the region and triggered several debris flows in the Poomacha and Witch Creek burn areas. Portions of highways 78 and 76 were closed.

1983: A series of storms produced surf up to 16 feet from 1/22 to 1/29. Several piers collapsed. Damage was done to numerous businesses and homes. Several injuries occurred as people were swept off rocks.

1969: Heavy rains of tropical origin began on 1/18 ended on 1/28. As much as 50 inches of rain fell at 7,700 feet. 31 inches of rain fell on the south slopes of Mt. San Geronio, 15.5 inches at San Jacinto Peak, around ten inches at Banning, less than 1 inch from Indio southeast. This day was the end of nine consecutive days (the most on record) of measurable precipitation in Riverside which started on 1/19. This also occurred on 2/13-2/21/1980. 91 were reported dead from flooding and mud slides all over California. Scores died in traffic accidents. Hundreds of homes and buildings were destroyed in slides, including 14 destroyed and 11 damaged homes in Mt. Baldy Village. 50 homes near Forest Home (Forest Falls) were damaged by flooding. Highways and railroads washed out. Power outages occurred. Cucamonga Creek itself caused \$10 million in damage. The Mojave River took out numerous bridges and flooded farmlands in the upper desert. Strong storm winds felled trees which killed four and caused power outages.

1956: A heavy storm in Southern California starting on 1/25 and ending on this day dropped 13.74 inches in Lake Arrowhead, 7.97 inches in LA, 7.27 inches in Santa Ana, 7.06 inches in San Bernardino, 4.00 inches in Riverside, 1.14 inches in San Diego, and 0.74 inch in Palm Springs. Around San Bernardino, local floods filled streets and channels, and blocked many roadways. Mud and rocks covered some roads, causing damage. This damage occurred after fires denuded nearby mountain slopes.

1916: Heavy rain that began on 1/25 and ended on 1/30 exacerbated the flooding

earlier in the month. Monthly rainfall totals for January 1916 ranged from 7.56 inches at San Diego to 57.91 inches at Dorman's Ranch (in the San Bernardino Mountains, 2,500 feet elev.). Five inches fell in less than 12 hours in San Diego. Extensive flooding occurred all over Southern California, the worst to date and it resulted in 28 total deaths in the region, 22 in San Diego County. **This is the most destructive and deadly weather event in San Diego**

County History. The Lower Otay Dam broke sending a 40-foot wall of water downstream, killing 15. A few others drowned in Mission Valley and in the San Luis Rey River. The Sweetwater Dam also broke. Every large bridge in San Diego County but one was seriously damaged or destroyed. Four drowned in Orange County, two in a cottage floating down the Santa Ana River. Two drowned in San Bernardino County. Total damage was nearly \$8 million (1916 dollars).



Sweetwater Dam after it failed due to excessive rainfall on this day in 1916.